

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

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31 MAR 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Hearing on Arafat and Terrorism

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1. On 31 March 1988 a hearing of the Task Force on Terrorism of the Senate Intelligence Committee was held. A transcript was taken.

2. Present for all or part of the testimony were:

[redacted] D/NESA, [redacted] CTC, [redacted] CTC and [redacted] NESA were the witnesses. Senator Specter, Charles Battaglia, Chris Straub and Dave Holliday attended. [redacted]

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3. The testimony from both hearings is attached. Senator Specter asked some questions about whether various pieces of evidence could be declassified.

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4. At the end of the hearings, Senator Specter said that he would be writing to a senior official to see if we can put into summary form some of the information to declassify for public use.

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SA/OCA [redacted] (7 Apr 88)

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Senator Specter:

At our last meeting you asked a number of specific questions regarding the information presented. I have answers to those questions.

Regarding the Munich massacre, you asked when Arafat issued a statement about the resistances' struggle and what was the exact language of his statement. I have partial text of Arafat's statement translated and published by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service. This text originated from Baghdad Iraqi News Agency at 1025 GMT on 7 September 1972, approximately 8-10 hours after the abortive rescue attempt in Germany which ended in the deaths of 9 Israeli hostages, one German and 5 of the terrorists. Three of the terrorists were captured. The text is date lined Kuwait and reads as follows:


PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that the resistance will strike the enemy wherever he is and whoever he is, and that the resistance struggle is aimed against Zionism and its ally, world imperialism. Commenting on the Munich operation, 'Arafat said it is irrefutable evidence of the disregard of the world for the Palestine issue. He added that world opinion is driving the Palestinian struggle to use this method.

In a statement published by Al-Qabas today, 'Arafat explained: We are leading a long battle with a savage enemy who speaks about humanity when there are victims in his ranks but does not know the meaning of it when he treats the Palestinian Arabs with violence and terror, when these Arabs have rights and the land is theirs.

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Commenting on the Black September Organization, which has claimed responsibility for the Munich operation, 'Arafat said: The Palestinian resistance is one body and fights for one aim--to regain Palestine, the Arab land usurped by Zionism, which has also rendered its inhabitants homeless and maltreated them with the ugliest forms of oppression, coercion and terror.



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Next 15 Page(s) In Document Denied